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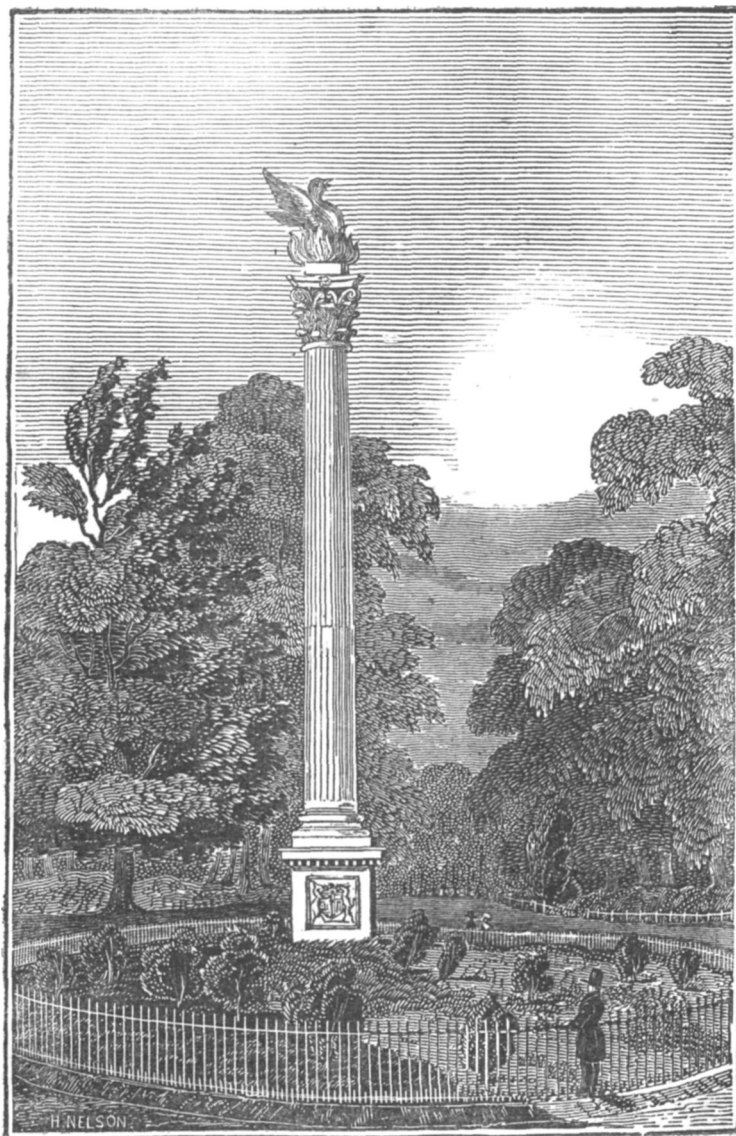
# THE DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL

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PHOENIX COLUMN, PHOENIX PARK.

The above Pillar, erected in the Phoenix Park by the Earl of Chesterfield in the year 1745, stands in the centre of an area where four great avenues meet, and from which there are entrances to the Viceregal Lodge, and that of the Chief Secretary. The trees which shade the avenues form vistas through which the perspective views of the column assume rather a picturesque effect. It is of Portland stone, and of the Corinthian order, fluted, and highly ornamented. The base and pedestal five feet in height, the shaft and capital twenty, and the phoenix which surmounts the column five feet, so that the whole presents an object thirty feet high. On the north and south sides of the pedestal are the crest and arms of Stanhope

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in relief. On the east and west sides are the following inscriptions:—

Civium Oblectamento  
Campvm Rvdem et Incvltvm  
Ornari Ivssit  
Philippvs Stanhope,  
Comes de Chesterfield  
Prorox.

Impensis suis Posvit  
Philippvs Stanhope, Comes  
De Chesterfield, Prorox.

To protect the column from accidental violence it has

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been enclosed by a circular iron railing; but it is to be regretted that, from the perishable nature of the stone, this ornament to the Park exhibits various symptoms of decay: while the railing keeps off the hand of man, it cannot keep off the hand of time, which is fast obliterating its ornaments.

#### BRITISH BOTANY.\*

To those interested in the prosperity of Ireland, it must afford pleasure to observe the very superior manner in which books are now brought out by several of our Dublin publishers, when compared with those printed in the metropolis a few years since. Not only would the little work before us do credit to the first London house, as to the manner of its getting up, but to this it adds the much greater excellence of real value in the matter which it contains. Unlike many similar works published in London, which are mere bookselling speculations, made up by persons ignorant of the science of which they profess to treat, the work before us is evidently the production of a practical botanist. The flowers, of which there are twenty-eight plates in the volume, are very elegant, both as to the sketching and colouring, and have all the appearance of being accurately drawn from nature.

Although possessing these various recommendations, the author unassumingly informs us, that the work "is not intended for the study of those already learned in the science of Botany; but merely as an introduction for beginners, and has been compiled simply with that view. The writer has imagined that the easiest method of explaining any subject, is to represent it in a familiar dialogue, as being a less tedious manner of conveying information than a continued description, and has therefore been induced to offer the work in its present form."

The following extracts from the early chapters will sufficiently show the nature of the work:

"MISS HENLEY.—Since you are so impatient to begin, Sophia, I will endeavour to explain this rather difficult science to you, as well as I am able. Botany is that branch of science which treats of the structure and functions of vegetables: the systematical arrangement and denomination of their several kinds; and their peculiar properties and uses. Vegetables are organized, supported by air and food, endowed with life, and subject to death as well as animals.

"MARY.—Plants appear to be extremely numerous; has it ever been ascertained how many different species there are?

"MISS H.—The number of plants at present known is upwards of sixty thousand; not including those belonging to New Holland.

"SOPHIA.—How many are supposed to be natives of Great Britain?

"MISS H.—About two thousand: nearly one half of which are mosses and lichens, &c.

"SOPHIA.—How many principal parts does a flower consist of?

"MISS H.—Seven; which are, the calyx, corolla, stamen, pistil, pericarp, or seed-vessel, seed and receptacle. The first four parts properly belong to the flower; the last three to the seed.

"MARY.—What parts of a plant ought we to be first acquainted with?

"MISS H.—The flower and fruit; these consist, as I have already told you, of seven parts, which are particularly requisite to be understood, as the classification of plants, according to the Linnæan system, is founded on them.

"But you will understand my explanation better by seeing all the different parts yourselves. Here is the convolvulus arvensis, (small bind weed,) which will serve to show you the stamens and pistils, though if we could have procured a larger flower, it would have been better, certainly. However, as I do not perceive any other near me better adapted to my purpose, I will proceed to separate the different parts. This green part, which is situated im-

mediately beneath the blossom, is called the calyx or flower-cup: its chief use is to enclose and protect the other parts of the flower: it sometimes consists of two or more leaves, as in the rose; and is sometimes tubular, as in the primrose.

"MARY.—Is there more than one kind of calyx?

"MISS H.—Yes, there are seven kinds of calyces. The first, perianth or calyx, commonly so called, the most general, is that which is contiguous to, or actually makes a part of the flower, but is not always present: this is the kind I have already described as belonging to the rose, and also to the carnation. Hemlock, carrot, and other plants of the same character, have what is usually called a calyx, but what Dr. Smith considers floral leaves or bractæ, situated remote from the flower: this is called involucre. Daffodil, iris or flag, and crocus, before expanding, are shut up in a sheath-like covering, which bursts at the sides, called a sheath. Grasses are furnished with a peculiar chaff-like substance, or glume; a term also applied to the corolla of grasses. This calyx is denominated a glume. The minute, but curious tribes of mosses, have also their calyx, which, from being placed on the top of the flower, like a hood, is called calyptra.

"The calyx of the mushroom tribe, is called volva.

"MARY.—What part of the flower is the corolla?

"MISS H.—The corolla consists of those more delicate and dilated, generally more coloured leaves, which are always internal with respect to the calyx, and constitute the chief beauty of a flower. This pretty pink part of the convolvulus which I hold in my hand is the corolla. In the rose, the corolla is red and fragrant; in the violet, purple; and in the primrose, yellow. The leaves which compose the corolla, are called petals. In many plants, as, for example, this convolvulus, the corolla is formed of one single leaf or petal, and is then called one-petalled, or monopetalous; in the rose, which consists of more than one petal, the corolla is many-petalled, or polypetalous. The upper part of a monopetalous corolla, is termed the limb; the lower, or contracted portion, the tube. The base of each petal in a polypetalous corolla, is the claw; the expanded part is the border; but we will have another conversation about corollas to-morrow.

"SOPHIA.—Will you explain what the stamen is?

"MISS H.—The stamen is placed immediately within the corolla; at least, generally so; or, if there is no corolla, within the calyx. It is composed of two parts, a thread-like portion, or filament, which supports the upper part, or anther; this, when ripe, bursts and discharges a fine dust or pollen; on this essentially depends the fertilizing principle.

"MARY.—What is the pistil?

"MISS H.—The pistil is commonly in the centre of the flower, and consists of three parts, which are, the germen, the style, and the stigma. The germen is the pedestal or base of the pistil, generally of a roundish shape, though sometimes slender; its office is to contain the seeds which are not yet arrived at maturity; the style is the pillar, or thread-like part, which supports the stigma, which is the highest part of the pistil.

"SOPHIA.—Is not some part of the flower called the nectary?

"MISS H.—Yes, the nectary is sometimes a part of the pistil, sometimes separate from it; from being supposed to produce the honey or nectar, the term nectary is applied to it. Every singular appearance in a flower, which is not calyx, corolla, stamen, nor pistil, has the general name of nectary. I will take the larkspur as an example. This has no calyx; the corolla has five differently formed petals; the upper one ends in a spire-like projection; it has, also, another peculiarity, which is a somewhat divided petal-like portion, with a horn or spur, projecting and enclosing the spur of the petal; this is the nectary.

"MARY.—How may we distinguish the nectary in different flowers?

"MISS H.—In monopetalous flowers, as the dead nettle, the tube of the corolla contains, and probably secretes the honey, without any evident nectary. Sometimes it is a production or elongation of the corolla, as in the violet; sometimes also of the calyx, as in the garden nasturtium, whose calyx partakes frequently of the nature of the

\* British Botany familiarly explained and described, in a Series of Dialogues, illustrated with Twenty-eight coloured Plates, drawn from Nature. Dublin; W. F. Wakeman.